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Analyst Charged in Satellite Photo Disclosure

Washington—Samuel Loring Morison, 40, an intelligence analyst for the U. S. Navy, last week was arrested and charged with unauthorized disclosure and transmission of three secret satellite photographs of a new Soviet carrier under construction at a Soviet naval shipyard on the Black Sea (AW&ST Aug. 13, p. 27).

Morison was arrested by the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Naval Investigative Service at Dulles International Airport. Morison, grandson of the naval historian Rear Adm. Samuel Eliot Morison, is an analyst with the Naval Intelligence Support Center at Suitland, Md., near Washington.

Investigation of Morison started when a British magazine, Jane's Defence Weekly, published photos of the Soviet carrier without disclosing the source of the photographs. The pictures were released by Jane's to international wire services, from which they were obtained by AVIATION WEEK & SPACE TECHNOLOGY and credited to Wide World Photos and Jane's.

Morison has been a part-time editor for Jane's Fighting Ships, an annual publication and a sister publication to Jane's All the Worlds Aircraft. Morison was paid about $5,000 a year for his contributions to Jane's Fighting Ships.

An affidavit filed in a Maryland federal court by agents of the FBI and NIS said the satellite photographs were based on three pictures taken from the Naval Intelligence Support Center in late July. An analysis of a typewriter ribbon from Morison's office typewriter showed correspondence with the editor of Jane's Defence Weekly, Derek Wood.

In London, officials told AVIATION WEEK & SPACE TECHNOLOGY that Morison had been associated with Jane's Fighting Ships for a number of years but was not a regular contributor to Jane's Defence Weekly. A U. S. Navy official said Dept. of Defense employees are not barred from writing for such publications, but that any contributions had to be reviewed.

Morison last week was being held under $500,000 bail. If convicted, he faces maximum penalties of imprisonment for not more than 10 years and a $10,000 fine for each count in violation of the U. S. espionage act, Title 18, U. S. Code Section 793(d) and (e).

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